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ISRAEL SEEKS WATER

MISSOULA, Mont.---

Israel chiefly uses water for agriculture and the small, east Mediterranean nation has already developed 85 percent of its water potential, reports Jeruham Kafkafi (coffee).

Kafkafi, the scientific attache for the Embassy of Israel, Washington, D.C., spoke Wednesday at the ninth University of Montana School of Forestry water lecture.

He said that Israel is approximately equal in size to the State of Vermont. It was part of the ancient's fertile crescent, much of which is now uninhabited desert. But Israel has some very fertile areas.

Most of its cultivated land lies in the south where very little rain falls, but most of the nation's pure water is in the north.

United States Ambassador Eric Johnson, during the Eisenhower administration, recommended a four-nation, international water plan. Political considerations, however, precluded Lebanon, Jordan and Syria from participating.

Israel was forced to develop its own water plans: the National Water Carrier. The development now moves 320 million cubic meters of water a year from the Sea of Galilee to the coastal plain.

It integrates ground water sources, other reservoirs and streams, replenishing their supply during wet seasons and drawing from them in dry seasons.

Kafkafi said Israel has more needs and greater water problems in its future. It is researching distillation, electrolysis and other purifying methods for salt water.

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